

WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 20, 2012

Youth Involvement Planned for Channel Islands Sanctuary Advisory Council

At their January 20th, 2012 public meeting, members of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council unanimously approved moving forward with a new project that will soon bring a group of high school students into the council forum. Under the leadership of their education working group, the Sanctuary Education Team (SET), regional area high schools will soon be notified of a special opportunity to connect a group of students with the SET, learn about advisory council issues, attend several council meetings, and prepare and present an issue-based project. The opportunity will also include the chance for schools to apply for a small grant from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Ocean Guardian Program, which can help with student transportation costs. Advisory council members expressed enthusiasm and support for the SET's proposal.

2012 Priorities Established by Sanctuary Advisory Council

On January 20th, 2012 the sanctuary advisory council voted on and established work plan priorities for the year 2012. By collectively setting these priorities, the council ensures that it will remain in touch with and engaged in important issues faced by the sanctuary. Highest priority activities that the council agreed to work on include:

- Continuing development of external support for the sanctuary mission;
- Providing council advise on sanctuary actions related to ship strikes on large whales;
- Remaining informed of US Coast Guard plans to adjust shipping lanes within and near the sanctuary region and providing council input;
- Receiving updates on and providing support for biological and socioeconomic monitoring of the Channel Islands marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Discussing recently designated state MPAs along the mainland coast adjacent to CINMS and integrating related education and outreach efforts; and
- Learning about the latest work to advance understanding of ocean acidification and remaining informed of the implementation of the sanctuaries' west coast action plan.

Full work plan details are at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/pdf/2012wkplan.pdf>.

Sanctuary Advisory Council supports U.C. Santa Barbara Study of Non-Market Valuation of Private Recreational Boat Users

On January 20, 2012 the Sanctuary Advisory Council voted 16-1 to express support for a graduate student socioeconomic study being proposed to the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (Bren School) at the University of California, Santa Barbara by Masters students Kiya Gornik and Brandon Doheny. The study, titled "Marine Protected Areas and the Non-Market Value of Private Recreational Boating in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary," would be a collaboration between the students, their advisors, sanctuary staff and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). The proposed project aims to translate private recreational boat user choices into economic value, thus providing CINMS managers with a net worth for recreational boating use. By utilizing the Random Utility Model (RUM) for the first time in a Sanctuary setting, managers will be informed of bio-geographic attributes (such as bottom composition, fish abundance) and management attributes (such as MPAs) of the CINMS that are valuable to recreational users. If the project is accepted by the Bren School, the student group will be advised by faculty

members Christopher Costello and Paulina Oliva, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Economist Bob Leeworthy, and will work closely with its clients CINMS and EDC.

March 16, 2012

U.S. Coast Guard Leadership Addresses Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Recognizes Contributions of Robert Schwemmer

At a March 16, 2012 public meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, CAPT Roger Laferriere, Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's Sector LA/Long Beach, offered farewell remarks prior to his upcoming retirement. Laferriere applauded the advisory council for their leadership on protection of the environment, and commented on what an honor it has been for him to work with the council on issues such as oil spill response preparedness. CAPT Laferriere also read a letter of appreciation and presented an Award of Operational Merit to Robert Schwemmer, Maritime Heritage Coordinator for the ONMS West Coast Region. Schwemmer was recognized for above-and-beyond, mission-critical contributions he made before, during and after the October 2011 historic and unprecedented multi-agency underwater assessment of the S.S. Montebello, a WWII tanker carrying three million gallons of crude oil that was torpedoed off of Cambria, California. In return, sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley presented CAPT Laferriere with two photo collage gifts, and recognized him for his many contributions, including successful efforts to enhance the strong partnership between sanctuaries and the Coast Guard, his inspirational leadership, and his effectiveness. The Coast Guard Sector LA/Long Beach change of command ceremony is scheduled for May 25, 2012.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 12, 2012

Council learns about new Cordell Bank exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California

Chief Curator of Natural Sciences at the Oakland Museum of California, Douglas Long, gave a presentation to Council members about the new California Natural Sciences gallery at the Oakland Museum. The gallery will highlight California's biological diversity by focusing on seven ecosystems including Oakland, Mt. Shasta, Sutter Buttes, Yosemite, Tehachapi Mountains, San Jacinto/Palm Desert, and Cordell Bank. The Cordell Bank exhibit will highlight the beauty and biological importance of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary for local and migratory species. There will be exhibits about upwelling, Black-footed Albatross migrations and how these seabirds are impacted by plastics and marine debris, a mosaic of monitors playing video of the sanctuary's ecosystems, audio stories from the first group of SCUBA divers to explore the bank in the 1970s and 1980s, and a replica of the Bank's upper reef top. There will also be a lounge area where visitors can relax and learn more about other National Marine Sanctuaries. After the presentation, Council members provided input to Jennifer Stock, Cordell Bank Education and Outreach Coordinator, and to each other on how to best inform their constituents about the new exhibit.

Council welcomes new members

Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council selected three new members to represent the Education primary, Research alternate, and Community-at-large Marin County alternate seats on the Council.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 23, 2012

Advisory Council Approves Revised Charter Language for a Youth Seat

On Thursday, Feb 23rd the Sanctuary Advisory Council convened at Bodega Marine Lab in Bodega, California. At the meeting, the council reviewed the second set of recommendations from the Youth Involvement Subcommittee, chaired by Kellyx Nelson (Primary At- Large San Francisco/ San Mateo). This included draft charter language describing the qualifications and process for establishing a youth seat. The language was discussed and approved by the council. Recruitment for the youth seats will begin in the fall of 2012, and the seat will be firmly established by January 2013.

Subcommittee Develops a Strategy for Approaching Fisheries Issues in the Advisory Council

At the council meeting in Bodega, the Fisheries Involvement Subcommittee provided their recommendations on how (or if) fisheries issues should be brought to the council. It was approved by council action that all future fisheries actions brought forward to the SAC may be referred to an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Fisheries Policy for review and recommendations to the full SAC. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Fisheries Policy may request relevant members of NMFS to serve as technical advisers. This process was established as an efficient way to determine what issues are appropriate and relevant for the council's deliberation, before limited time and resources get dedicated to those issues.

Advisory Council Requests Sanctuary Staff Review the Current Status of the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusionary Area, or "Donut Hole"

At the council meeting in Bodega, the council heard presentations from two local research groups on the use of San Francisco Bay waters by important marine species. First, Golden Gate Cetacean Research shared their Harbor Porpoise research, which indicates that a large, distinct population of harbor porpoise are using the waters under the Golden Gate Bridge and inside the Bay as prime habitat. Aquarium of the Bay shared their tagging work on sevengill Sharks. Their three-year research study indicates that sevengills show a high degree of residency in the San Francisco Bay area. And, the Golden Gate Bridge area is a preferred habitat for both adult and juvenile sevengill sharks. Both organizations asked that these waters be considered for inclusion into the sanctuary, to afford greater protection for this habitat. The council moved that sanctuary staff should investigate the original reasons for exclusion of these areas during sanctuary designation and evaluate whether those reasons are still valid. They also moved that sanctuary staff research potential options for boundary modifications and/or naming newly established sanctuary waters.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 16, 2012

In August 2011 Dr. Chris Harrold, Advisory Council Chair, provided a presentation on his attendance at the SAC Summit in May 2011. During this presentation Dr. Harrold highlighted a presentation by Bill Douros, Acting Deputy Director, regarding the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List (SEL). In October 2011 the advisory council heard from many members of the public about reactivation of the SEL and expansion or development of a sanctuary to all of San Luis Obispo County and possibly further south. In December 2011 advisory council received an informational presentation from Bill Douros on the SEL. Following the presentation some advisory council members stated they would draft a letter in support of reactivation of the SEL to be presented at the February meeting. The letter was presented in February and after much discussion the advisory council determined they would not take a vote on the letter until the April meeting. This would provide advisory council members more time to reach out to their constituents regarding this topic and be more prepared to make an informed decision on the letter in April.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 10, 2012

Advisory Council sets 2012 Priorities

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) finalized its 2012 work plan, which supports implementation of key sections of the 2011 OCNMS Management Plan. The AC will focus on supporting the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and improving its communication and coordination with the IPC. The AC also committed to reviewing the OCNMS Long Range Facility Plan; supporting key research components (oceanographic monitoring and data management); assisting with updates to the OCNMS Long Range Interpretive Plan; assisting in the development of a Climate Change Site Assessment; identifying opportunities for marine debris education and restoration; and supporting voluntary compliance outreach efforts for resource protection programs addressing overflights, marine shipping, and cruise ship discharges.

Advisory Council Seats New Members

The OCNMS AC welcomed seven new and three renewing members representing Conservation, Research, Tourism/Recreation, Marine Business/Industry/Ports, and Commercial Fishing seats, as well as a new seat for the U.S. Geological Survey, which was added in a recent Advisory Council Charter update.

March 16, 2012

Advisory Council Meeting Focuses on Proposed Socioeconomic Studies for Washington's Outer Coast

OCNMS's AC was introduced to two planned socioeconomic studies of Washington's outer coast. One proposal is sponsored by state-funded, citizen-based outer coast marine resources committee, entitled *Washington's Working Coast*, will focus on economic contributions to the regional economy of employment centered on extraction of natural resources from coastal waters. An additional study being promoted by the Surfrider Foundation will analyze economic contributions of non-consumptive uses of coastal areas, such as tourism and recreation. Bob Leeworthy, Chief Economist from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, joined the meeting by teleconference to provide perspective from his work. Bob introduced the concept of ecosystem services and identified how the sanctuary program could provide advice during study development, how studies could be modified to improve characterization of the sanctuary area, and how his team in the sanctuary program could complement and expand upon the proposed studies.
